

AT A MEETING of the  
SIR GEORGE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
held at Sir George Staunton Country Park, Havant on 3 September 2012

**PRESENT**

**Hampshire County Council**

p Councillor Mrs. L. Fairhurst (Chairman)  
a Councillor I.F.E. Beagley  
p Councillor Mrs. A. Buckley  
a Councillor R.C. McIntosh  
a Councillor F. Pearce (Vice-chairman)

p Colin Hudman  
p Gordon Gardner  
p Tim Speller

**East Hampshire District Council**

p Councillor Mrs. D.K. Denston  
a Mr. S. d'Este Hoare

**Havant Borough Council**

p Councillor Mrs. Y. Weeks  
p Mr. Jeff Crate

**101. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Ian Beagley, Robin McIntosh, and Frank Pearce, and Mr S d'Este Hoare.

**102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

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| 103. | <b>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |        |
|      | <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2012 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p><b>Matters arising:-</b></p> <p><b>Item94: Matters arising</b></p> <p>The Park Manager informed Members that the barbecues would not be in place until next year; this was largely due to the upheavals following the Countryside Service changes in the management structures of Staunton and Queen Elizabeth Country Parks and the departure of the head ranger. It had also been decided to buy the same type of barbecues currently in use at Queen Elizabeth Country Park, which would be a cheaper option.</p> <p>It was commented that with regular water shortages, it was a concern that the reservoir would be taking such a long time to complete; it was further noted that the route of the pipeline would be on the local plan to prevent building on it.</p> <p><b>Item 96: Park Managers Report</b></p> <p>The Park Manager circulated a children's food bag, which included a sandwich, drink and three other items, plus a colouring sheet and crayons, at a cost of £3.75. It was commented that this was quite a high price, but Members were informed that they were being purchased. It was noted that half portions of hot meals could be purchased.</p> <p><b>Item 99: AOB</b></p> <p>Members were informed that the Wallaby Walk had been put on hold; this was due to the costs of the new lambing barn being higher than expected and would require additional funding, and that the Countryside Service was conducting a general review of projects.</p> <p>The official opening of the Wildlife Zone had been put back until November 2012; this was partly due to the departure of the head ranger who had been heavily involved with the project, also to ensure that the planting had time to become established and so that schools could be invited.</p> |        |

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| <b>104.</b> | <b>DEPUTATIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |              |
|             | There were no deputations at this meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |              |
| <b>105.</b> | <b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |              |
|             | <p>The Committee received the report of the Director of Corporate Resources on the financial performance of Sir George Staunton Country Park to the end of July 2012. (Item 5 in the Minute Book)</p> <p>The Treasurer summarised his report, highlighting the challenges that had faced the Park in the first four months of the year due the inclement weather, with higher expenditure and lower income compared to the same period in 2011. He indicated that initial figures for August 2012 looked good. It was explained that the 8% reduction in partner contributions was the main factor in the lower income; this would not be so large in the 2013/14 financial year. He drew Members' attention to the lower than budgeted surplus that was now expected, £15,000 as opposed to £30,000. The revised budget would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee. It was stressed that expenditure needed to be further reduced, but that it must not impact on the timescales for delivering income-generating projects.</p> <p>It was noted that the play barn had been a good investment and had led to increased memberships during the poor weather. Car parking had made a net profit of £11,000 to the end of August 2012. Members were informed that Havant Borough Council were ticketing people who parked on the grass outside the Park, but it was not known whether any had been given inside the Park. It was also mentioned that sales generally were up by 7.6% on the same period in 2011. Questioned about the uptake of membership by dog walkers, Members were informed that this was unclear, but that there had been an increase in single memberships, which could be down to this.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the JMC approved the content of the report.</li> </ul> | Colin Hudman |

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| 106. | <b>PARK MANAGER'S REPORT:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                |
|      | <p>The Committee received the report of the Park Manager giving an update on developments at the Park. (Item 6 in the Minute Book)</p> <p>The Park Manager answered questions raised by Members about his report. Tim Speller, the Visitor Centre Manager for Queen Elizabeth Country Park, was introduced to the Committee; he would be working closely with the Park Manager at both Parks. Members were pleased to learn that following a poor start to the year the visitor figures for July were 45% up on the July 2011 figures and that August figures were expected to be good.</p> <p>Members were advised that the new logo for the Park, which aimed to make the Park's ethos clearer and the new map for the Park and Leigh Park Gardens would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>It was noted that the Water Festival had gone ahead despite the wet weather and had not made a loss for the Park. A large puddle that had developed at the entrance had now been fixed. Members were informed that there would be a change to the event next year, possibly to a country fair, but it was stressed that the Park did not have the capacity to manage the event on its own. A meeting was being held on 28 September 2012 to discuss the future event.</p> <p>Members were informed that 'Staunton Live' in August had been a well-supported event, but that more needed to be made of such events to raise income levels. Questioned about the 'Hampshire Welcomes the World' event, the Committee were informed that the event had been good, but was not well-attended; it was felt that the organisers, which was not the park, had not promoted the event enough. It was noted that the Park Run had taken off.</p> <p>Members' attention was drawn to a project analysis being done by the Countryside Service on Staunton Country Park; where previously the Park had been more independent in securing funding, it was now important to work more collaboratively with the other Parks. Questioned about his dual role, the Park Manager explained that he was still getting used to the challenge of working in two Parks and that his remit was to make both Parks cost neutral in the future.</p> <p>Members were disappointed to hear that the cycle hire initiative in Leigh Park Gardens had not been successful due to the poor</p> | Gordon Gardner |

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|             | <p>weather and that it was now only possible to hire a bike by pre-booking. Members were also informed that there was a drainage problem at the Coach House, in that the building is flooded every time it rains; this would have to be fixed and would be expensive.</p> <p>The Park Manager explained to Members the work that had been done on the Health and Safety audit. The outstanding areas were Manual Handling, COSHH and glazing risk assessments on the glass houses, which were in the process of being completed.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the JMC accepted the report.</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>107.</b> | <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
|             | <p>Questioned about the possibility of pursuing the use of the Park for filming as an income opportunity, which had been done at Manor Park, the Park Manager informed Members that opportunities for this were sought and that the Leigh Park Gardens had been used recently.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
| <b>108.</b> | <b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
|             | <p>The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 3 December 2012 at 10.00 am at the Park.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
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